

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 IO-10 ACDA-05

SAM-01 OMB-01 /105 W

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R 171025Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9116

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COL

NRU EIYB

AMBLBASSY JIDDA 48

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSYMYTBUL

AMEMBAH EKATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, BG

SUBJ: PRESIDENT SAYEM'S SPEECH HIGHLIGHT OF HOLIDAY PERIOD

1. DESPITE FEARS THAT DISSIDENTS WOULD CAUSE TROUBLE OVER
THE FOUR DAY EID-UL-AZHA AOD NATIONAL DAY HOLIDAY, THE PERIOD
FROM DZCEMBER 13 TO 16 PASSED WITHOUT PUBLIC INCIDENT. THUS
THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE LONG, QUIET WEEKEND WAS PRESIDENT SAYEM'S

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ADDRESS TO THE NATION DECEMBER 15, A BRIEF SPEECH WHICH REITERATED
THE POLICIES ESTABLISHED BY THE MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATION AND

REVIEWED STEPS TAKEN TO IMPROVE THE ADMINISTRATION AND ECONOMY OF THE COUNTRY.

2. PRESIDENT SAYEM STRESSED ONCE MORE THAT HIS IS AN -INTERIM", "NON-POLITICAL" AND "NEUTRAL" GOVERNMENT DEDICATED TO IMPROVING THE LAW AND ORDER SITUATION AND TRANSFERRING POWER THROUGH GENERAL ELECTIONS TO THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE. HE PRAISED THE SECURITY FORCES FOR DISCHARGING "THEIR DUTIES WITH ADMIRABLE DEDICATION AND FIARPLAY" IN MATTERS OF DEFENSE, LAW AND ORDER, AND THE ERADICATION OF CORRUPTION. STATING THAT A MAJOR AIM OF THE GOVERNMENT WAS TO "INTRODUCE DYNAMISM IN DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES", SAYEM SIAD THA PRIORITY WAS BEING GIVEN TO AGRICULTURE THROUGH THE SWANIRVAR (SELF-RELIANT) PROGRAM AND THE FOOD FOR WORK PROGRAM. HE ALSO MENTIONED EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE EFFICIENCY OF THE NATIONALIZED INDUSTRIES AND TO ENCOURAGE PRIVATE INVESTMENT. IF THE STANDARD OF LIVING IS TO BE IMPROVED, SAYEM SAID, "IT IS INDISPENSABLE THAT THE GROWTH OF POPULATION SHOULD BE LIMITED."

3. TURNING TO FOREIGN AFFAIRS, PRESIDENT SAYEM REPEATED BANGLADESH'S COMMITMENT TO A NON-ALIGNED FOREIGN POLICY "BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUALITY, RESPECT FOR MUTUAL SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND NON-INTERFERENCE IN EACH OTHER'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS." SAYING THAT BANGLADESH HAD MADE "NOTABLE PROGRESS IN THE FIELD OF FOREIGN POLICY, THE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR CITED AGREEMENTS TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SAUDI ARABIA, PAKISTAN AND CHINA. AS THE THE SUBCONTINENT, SAYEM SAID BANGLADESH HAS CONTINUED EFFORTS TO CONSOLIDATE FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE COUNTRIES OF THE SUBCONTINENT AND IN SOUTH EAST ASIA AND WOULD CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS "STILL MORE VIGOROUSLY TO STRENGTHEN" RELATIONS WITH COUNTRIES OF THE SUBCONTINENT IN PARTICULAR. SAYEM SAID "WE HAVE ALREADY ACHIEVED SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS IN THIS REGARD."

4. TEXT OF SPEECH WILL BE POUCHED.

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